

IN THE CLAIMS

An unamended copy of the claims is presented for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (Previously Presented) A process for overcoating a multicoat color and/or effect paint system, wherein the process is carried out on a line at an automaker's plant and wherein the multicoat color and/or effect paint system, which is an OEM finish on a motor vehicle produced by means of electrostatic spray application, comprises at least one color and/or effect basecoat (A) produced from at least one aqueous basecoat material (A) and at least one clearcoat (B) produced from at least one liquid clearcoat material (B), the process comprising:

(1) applying to an outer surface of the multicoat paint system by pneumatic spray application a clearcoat material that is an extract of an aqueous basecoat material, which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat materials (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting film (1), wherein the extract is a coating material which comprises a binder and crosslinking agent that are the same as a binder and crosslinking agent in the aqueous basecoat material (A),

(2) flashing off and/or drying the resulting film (1) without curing it completely,

(3) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried film (2) by pneumatic spray application at a spraying pressure less than the pneumatic spray in step (1) with an aqueous basecoat material which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat material (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced to form a resulting aqueous basecoat film (3),

(4) flashing off and/or drying the resulting aqueous basecoat film (3) without curing it completely,

(5) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried aqueous basecoat film (4) with at least one liquid clearcoat material to form at least one resulting clearcoat film, and

(6) jointly curing the at least one resulting clearcoat film (5), the aqueous basecoat film (4), and the film (1), and, where present, any further uncured films that are present,

wherein the process is used for overcoating an entire area of the multicoat paint system or for overcoating a defect to the multicoat paint system and all of the adjacent area up to a boundary.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the multicoat paint system was produced by a wet on wet technique.

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the extract comprises the same binder or binders and the same crosslinking agent or agents as in the aqueous basecoat material (A).

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the pneumatic spray application in step (3) is applied at a spraying pressure of from 0.3 to 2 bar.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the whole area of the multicoat paint system is overcoated.

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the multicoat paint system is overcoated at a defect and also in an entire adjacent area up to a boundary.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein prior to step (1) at least one defect in the multicoat paint system is prepared by cleaning and/or abrading.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the extract is completely free from pigments.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the resulting film (1) in step (1) is applied in a total wet film thickness such that curing thereof in step (6) results in a dry film thickness of from 2 to 50 μm .

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the flashing off and/or drying of the resulting film (1) in step (2) and/or of the film (3) in step (4) is/are accelerated by raising the temperature of the films (1) and/or (3), passing a laminar air flow over the films (1) and/or (3), and/or reducing the humidity in the ambient atmosphere.

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat material in step (5) is applied with a spraying pressure of from 2.5 to 5 bar.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat film applied in step (5) is flashed off prior to curing in step (6).

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat material comprises a one-component clearcoat material, a two-component clearcoat material, or a dual-cure clearcoat material.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one clearcoat material corresponds substantially or is identical to the at least one clearcoat material (B) from which the at least one clearcoat (B) of the multicoat paint system was produced.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein

(i) the one-component clearcoat material comprises one of

(a) a hydroxyl-containing binder and a crosslinking agent that is at least one of a blocked polyisocyanate, a tris(alkoxycarbonylamino)triazine, and/or an amino resin, or

(b) at least one binder comprising a polymer containing pendant carbamate and/or allophanate groups and a crosslinking agent comprising an amino resin,

- (ii) the two-component clearcoat materials comprise a hydroxyl-containing binder and a crosslinking agent comprising a polyisocyanate, and
- (iii) the dual-cure clearcoat materials are one-component clearcoat materials or two-component clearcoat materials which additionally contain functional groups which can be activated with actinic radiation and/or additional constituents containing such functional groups.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the motor vehicle is an automobile.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A process for overcoating a multicoat color and/or effect paint system, wherein the process is carried out on a line at an automaker's plant and wherein the multicoat color and/or effect paint system, which is an OEM finish on a motor vehicle produced by means of electrostatic spray application, comprises at least one color and/or effect basecoat (A) produced from at least one aqueous basecoat material (A) and at least one clearcoat (B) produced from at least one liquid clearcoat material (B), the process comprising:

(1) applying to an outer surface of the multicoat paint system by pneumatic spray application a clearcoat material that is an extract of an aqueous basecoat material, which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat materials (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting film (1), wherein the extract is a coating material which comprises binder and crosslinking agent which is the same binder or binders and the same crosslinking agent or agents as in the aqueous basecoat material (A), except at lower concentrations than are employed in the aqueous basecoat material (A),

(2) flashing off and/or drying the resulting film (1) without curing it completely,

(3) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried film (2) by pneumatic spray application at a spraying pressure less than the pneumatic spray in step (1) with an aqueous basecoat material which substantially corresponds or is identical to the aqueous basecoat material (A) or one of the aqueous basecoat material (A) from which the basecoat (A) was produced, to form a resulting aqueous basecoat film (3),

(4) flashing off and/or drying the resulting aqueous basecoat film (3) without curing it completely,

(5) coating the resulting flashed off and/or dried aqueous basecoat film (4) with at least one liquid clearcoat material to form at least one resulting clearcoat film, and

(6) jointly curing the at least one resulting clearcoat film (5), the aqueous basecoat film (4) and the film (1), and, where present, any further uncured films that are present,

wherein the aqueous basecoat material (A) and the extract comprise at least one ionically and/or nonionically stabilized polyurethane binder which is saturated, unsaturated, and/or grafted with olefinically unsaturated compounds,

wherein the aqueous basecoat material (A) and the extract further comprise at least one crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of blocked polyisocyanates and tris(alkoxycarbonylamino)triazines, and

wherein the process is used for overcoating an entire area of the multicoat paint system or for overcoating a defect to the multicoat paint system and all of the adjacent area up to a boundary.

25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 24, wherein the pneumatic spray application in step (3) is conducted at a spraying pressure of from 0.3 to 1.8 bar, and the pneumatic spray application in step (1) is conducted with a spraying pressure of from 2.5 to 5 bar.